



(Amended) An isolated murine embryonic stem cell line comprising an engineered retroviral gene trap vector in at least one gene comprising a polynucleotide sequence disclosed in SEQ ID

NO:125.

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RESPONSE

I. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has determined that the original claims are directed to patently distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion and note that all of the described mutated cell clones have mutations manifested by the incorporation into the genome of a common genetically engineered construct. That said, the Applicants elect the mutated clone identified as having a mutation in the gene corresponding to (*i.e.*, identifiable as encoding exon sequence present in) SEQ ID NO:125 for subsequent examination. The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 7 to reflect the sequence election and the amended claims are not deemed to constitute new matter.

II. Conclusion

The present document is a complete response to the Restriction and Species Election Requirement. Applicants believe that the claims of the instant application meet all of the conditions for patentability and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early indication of the same is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Ton have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

November 6, 2002

Date

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE